

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The claims currently pending in the application are 1-6 and 8-12. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 7. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants note that the Examiner in his Office Action of August 9, 2007 indicated that claim 7 represented allowable subject matter, except for its dependence upon independent claim 1 which stood rejected. Since Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recital of claim 7, namely, step (i) of the process is carried out in a nitrogen atmosphere, amended independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 and 8-12 are in condition for allowance.

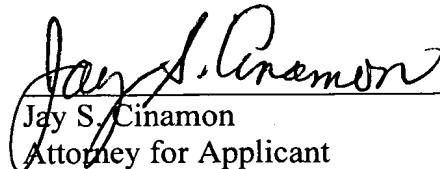
In view of the foregoing, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

ABELMAN, FRAYNE & SCHWAB
Attorneys for Applicant

By


Jay S. Cinamon
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,156

666 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-5621
Tel.: (212) 949-9022
Fax: (212) 949-9190